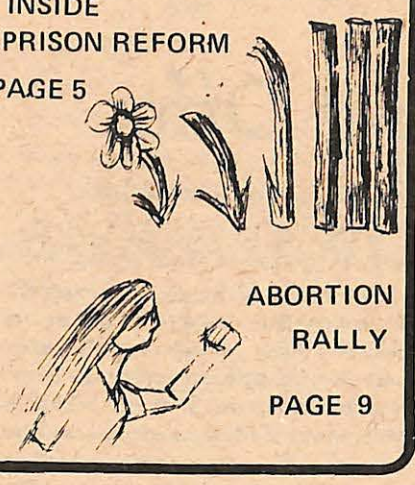
INSIDE
PRISON REFORM
PAGE 5



ABORTION
RALLY
PAGE 9

MODERN TIMES

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VOL. II NO. 16 New Haven DECEMBER 15-31, 1971

LOCAL
PRICES
RISE
PAGE 8

CHRISTMAS
TOY
PRICES
COMPARED
PAGE 6

# Unions to "Watchdog" Prices Here

by Stan Heller

On Saturday, Dec. 11, representatives of over 30 local union, consumer, community, and senior citizens groups met at the Labor Temple, 45 Water St. They heard Central Labor Council President Vincent Sirabella urge community groups to join with labor to form a Community Coordinating Committee which would give people a true picture of how price controls are working.

The committee is to serve as a watchdog on prices in the New Haven area and as an information committee to expose the price control system if it finds that business is easily getting around it.

Earlier in the meeting, two agents of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tried to explain to the skeptical crowd, how the controls were supposed to work. They said businessmen were allowed price increases on certain articles only if the costs of these articles had gone up.

**After Jan. 1, businesses have to post lists of what their prices were during the Aug. 15-Nov. 15 freeze period.**

They concluded by saying that the shopper who felt that a businessman had raised prices illegally should complain to the IRS which would launch an investigation.

Questions from the floor, however, showed that this program is far from simple, and that most of the people at the meeting were very doubtful that the controls could be enforced at all. Following is an excerpt from the question and answer session:

Q. If a store owner raises his price, how can you tell if his costs have really gone up?

**A. Legally, a store owner does not have to show you any of his bills or records of expenses. You have to take his word for it or complain to the IRS.**

Q. If a package of toothpaste costs the department store 10¢ more, is the store forbidden to raise the price by more than 10¢?

A. No. If the usual mark up is 50%, the store can raise the price by 10¢ for higher costs plus another 5¢ for the mark up.

***Q. Would the IRS require grocery stores or department stores who had overcharged for three months to "undercharge" for three months?***

***A. No. These stores would just have to roll back the price increase.***

*Q. Will the IRS publish the names of "price gougers"?*

A. No.

There was quite a bit of laughter and sarcastic comment when it was explained that customers would have to depend on the *store owners* to provide information on whether those same store owners were violating the controls.

*See WATCH DOG page 8.*

**Community groups question IRS agent (center) on price freeze. Pictured on left is Doris Moses of the Fair Haven Parents Ministry. M-T photos by Paul Gill**

# SCCC Students Fight Tuition Hike

by Patti Miller
*SCCC Student*

Students at South Central Community College (SCCC) will have to pay more if they want to go to school next semester. Due to Meskill's tuition hikes, tuition at all state colleges, including SCCC, has increased, thus moving away from the concept of public education to subsidized private education. Tuition at South Central will now be $50 more per semester.

There have been efforts to organize students from all state colleges in order to show their disapproval of these unjust tuition hikes. There was a rally last month in Hartford on November 10. One outcome of the rally was the formation of a statewide commission called "The Connecticut Coalition to Save Higher Education."

The coalition held a meeting December 5 to discuss the possibility of a state-wide student strike. Tuition hearings were held December 10 at the capitol building, in order to seek legislative support in passing a bill to stop tuition hikes.

On December 3 the students at South Central had their first assembly to discuss what actions should be taken. At the meeting they decided that students should first think a while about what to do rather than make any rushed decisions.

**Strike Out**

It is clear that right now, a strike would not only be ineffective, but would hurt the students themselves, because this is the end of the semester and important work would be missed.

One student said, "The tuition hike is wrong, but I don't know what to do about it. They've got us tied up. If we strike now, it hurts us. If we don't pay the tuition we can't get credits to transfer. I don't know what to do."

But something must be done about these hikes. One of the reasons why community colleges were originally set up was to give working people, those people who could not otherwise afford it, the opportunity to get more education. These increases will now make it impossible for some students to come back, and for some new students to enter.

Also, there is no scholarship program that will adequately serve the needs of the students affected. In fact, there is significantly less scholarship money available now than two years ago.

Meskill stated that the tuition hikes will not affect serious students. It seems as though he has mixed up seriousness with the ability to pay. It doesn't matter how serious a student is, if she or he doesn't have the money to pay the higher tuition, she or he will not be able to go to school.

Hopefully the actions taken by the coalition, and by individual students will be successful, and the December 10 hearings will go well in stopping the tuition hikes.

# Labor Probe Discovers Dangerous Conditions

**Members of Local 1370, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, set up a safety committee. See article page 3. (From left to right: Steve DeMatteo, Grievance Chairman; Ralph Capasso, President; Ken Preiss, Vice-President; Ed Parrett, Safety Committee. (M-T Photos by Steve Ney).**

# Nursing Home Workers Win 15% Wage Increase

by Bill Morico
*Administrative Organizer*
*Local 1199*

Over 200 workers at five area nursing homes will receive an average 15% increase in wages and benefits over the next year under the terms of new contracts.

The workers, members of Local 1199 National Union of Hospital and Nursing Home Employees AFL-CIO, will have a $100 per week minimum wage $2.50 per hour and $108 a week within one year, plus increased sick leave, increased holiday time and better health benefits. Also the contract language is clearer and provides more protection for the employees.

**Strikes Were Authorized**

Negotiations had been in progress for about two months with the contracts expiring in late November and early December. Each of the chapters had taken strike votes authorizing a strike if negotiations did not proceed rapidly.

The bosses and their lawyers, Robert Bencham of Milford and William Krupman of New York, backed Nixonomics and insisted they could negotiate a maximum of 5.5% increase.

**Tough Union Negotiators**

The negotiating committee, however, made up of about 25 rank-and-file nurse's aides, porters, housekeepers, etc., quickly destroyed the myth that their "high wages" were responsible for inflation. They pointed out that their wages put them in the poverty category.

*Local 1199 negotiators Jerome Brown and Deborah Levy emphasized throughout* negotiations that the union would not be bound by the wage controls because:

(1) High wages are not responsible for inflation
(2) Hospital workers always have been and still are grossly underpaid
(3) In any event, the Pay Board has not said increases over 5.5% could not be negotiated, only that they have to be approved.

Management also insisted that it could afford little or no increases since the State Welfare reimbursement was too low (many Connecticut nursing homes receive 90% of their income from the state and federal governments) and they could not make a reasonable profit.

**Profits or Rent**

At one point in the negotiations one owner said he might have to convert his nursing home into an office building to make a "reasonable" profit. A nurse's aide quickly shut him off "You talk about building office buildings. We're trying to make enough money to pay the rent!"

The contracts were negotiated at West Haven Manor, Seaside and Pond Point in Milford, Mt. Laurel in Bridgeport, and Wyndover in Stamford. They now have to be ratified by the membership and then approved by the Pay Board.

## Atlantic Wire, Branford

# Workers Reject Offer

by Dan Vapnek
*Modern Times Staff*

The 213 union employees at Atlantic Wire Co. in Branford have unanimously rejected the first company offer in their contract negotiations. The current contract is scheduled to expire on Jan. 2. Most of the employees at Atlantic Wire are members of Local 1396 of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW).

According to Warren Hoffman, Grand Lodge Representative of IAMAW, the company and union are far apart on almost all issues in the negotiations. These issues include wages and fringe benefits, elimination of the incentive system, improved grievance procedures, formation of a union shop, length of contract and choice of shift based on seniority.

In the contract offer, which was rejected by the union, the company offered a 5.5% increase in wages and fringe benefits, stating that that was the maximum allowable under Nixon's phase II guidelines. Hoffman disagrees with the company and stated that the price commission guidelines could be exceeded in cases such as Atlantic Wire where wages had fallen behind in recent years (base pay at Atlantic Wire is $2.52 to $3.75 per hour). For example, the pay board recently approved a first year increase of 16.8% in the new United Mine Workers contract.

**Union Demands**

The union has demanded an end to the incentive plan and wage increases equivalent to 30% of the incentive rate. An employee can currently earn this much if he meets his incentive "quota," and according to Hoffman this would not exceed the price commission guidelines. The company has refused to drop the incentive plan which has been in existence for 20 years.

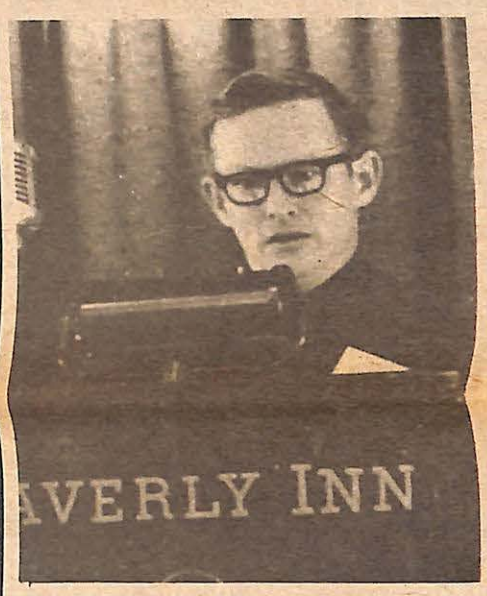
Fringe benefits at Atlantic Wire are also low, and although the company has offered improved hospitalization benefits, they have offered only a slight increase in the pension plan. The current plan pays an employee $3.20 per month per year of employment. An employee who was with the company for 30 years would therefore receive a pension of $96.00 per month. In the new pension offer there is no increase in the first year of the contract and an increase of only 41 cents per month in the second year.

***Demand Union Shop***

Other demands of the union are a one year rather than a two year contract and change from a maintenance of membership to a union shop. Another union demand is choice of shifts based on seniority. Currently the plant is a "swing shop" where an employee can be switched from one shift to another. The union wants the establishment of a "straight shop" where choice of shifts is based on seniority, and an employee works the same shift every day.

Negotiations at Atlantic Wire are currently at a standstill, and Hoffman said that he felt that the union would strike if the company does not make a dramatic change in its position by Jan. 2.

## N.H. Teachers Elect Ronald O'Brien




**Running on a platform calling for union democracy, increasing involvement in community affairs, and increased job security, the entire United Slate head by Ronald O'Brien of the New Haven Federation of Teachers was elected to two year terms in office. O'Brien is shown here as he *addressed the State Convention of the American Federation of Teachers* last spring. (M-T photo by Gene Frankel.)**

# YNFAC Organizing Despite Election Loss

by Ruth Resnick
*YNFAC Union Organizer*

The Yale Non-Faculty Action Committee is still organizing. Though the union lost at the polls on November 17, 520 people did vote yes. Yale's technical and clerical employees still have grievances, still need a voice in their working conditions, still need a union.

Here are some of the things that are going on now.

We already have enough members to begin drawing up a constitution. We need to form a constitution committee which can write the draft which will then be voted on at a meeting of the membership.

There will be regular membership meetings. The next one is Tuesday, January 18 at 7:30 P.M. in the union office.

Each area meets on Fridays at lunch hour, both at noon and 1 p.m.; medical school at Urban Institute, second floor; main campus, at YNFAC office, 425 College St.; and science area (call Karl Lechow 776-0846).

**Drive Continues**

We are continuing our membership drive. Membership cards are available through are organizers or at the office.

Members in each area are also setting up a tentative system of representation to facilitate communication among union members.

With our experience from the past campaign and with the strong determination of many hundreds of employees to have a union at Yale, YNFAC is continuing to grow. As a result of the campaign a dialogue has now started on how we can improve our working conditions.

Some employees feel that they'll wait for Yale to make the first move, and there is vague talk about a glorified grievance procedure. YNFAC members don't want to wait around for a possibility. We have a union to build.

# Yale N.H. Hospital Spying On Workers

by Ray Milici
*Concerned Hospital Workers*

Yale New Haven Hospital's high priced lawyers may soon have some more work to do. It seems that certain hospital bosses are in the habit of secretly listening in on the employee conversations.

For instance, the director of one department in the hospital, T.A.C., Mr. Hahn, has a voice box in his office which he uses to listen in on phone calls coming in to the dispatchers desk. Some workers have had personal calls monitored and are not too happy about it.

Spying on workers seems to be an unwritten hospital policy because it's happening in other departments. In the dietary department they have a bigger and better spy system. There is an intercom speaker in each unit of the main kitchen.

On certain occasions, the administrative dieticians have been seen in the office listening in on the workers through the intercom system. It is important to know that the main kitchen is a strong pro-union department. There the workers talk about the union, when the next meeting is, what the meeting is about, and what the next move will be to gain union recognition.

Last September Mrs. Toles, a dietary worker, was called into Mrs. Peck's office (Administrative Dietician). There sat the personnel director, Mr. Grubbs, with a beautiful tape recorder just waiting to record something that could be used against her.

Mrs. Toles is a union activist and has played an important part in the organizing drive. The hospital administration seems to have reached a new low.

**Mrs. Eileen Toles, YNH Hospital dietary worker, points out intercom in main kitchen, which leads employees to wonder who's listening to informal discussions of union recognition at YNH. (M-T photo by Ray Milici).**

# Dangers To Job Safety Investigated

by Steve Ney
*Modern Times Staff*

Is fiberglass dust dangerous? Can varnish fumes make you sick? How bad is it to breathe asbestos dust? What can be done about the safety and health hazards in our factories?

These were some of the questions which workers from United Electrical Workers (UE). Local 296, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Local 1370 asked members of the Occupational Health Project in two meetings last week.

At the first meeting, arranged by George Leggiero, President of Local 296 (UE), and Harry Kaplan, Business Agent (UE) for the Southern Conn. Region, ten workers from Safety Electrical Equipment Corporation in Hamden met with the Occupational Health Project. The Project consists of medical and law students interested in helping workers guarantee their rights under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

**Safety Company Unsafe**

The workers told us that their company, although called Safety Electrical, was not so safe after all. One worker mentioned that live wires--carrying 600 volts--were sometimes lying around on the floor or hanging in the air.

Another noted that suffocating varnish fumes from ovens permeated portions of the factory. Leggiero described the frequently filthy condition of the men's room and the armies of roaches so large you could ride them.

Other workers complained about the occasional severe noise problem in the plant which was causing hearing loss. Fiberglass dust, kerosene fumes and mica dust were among the other problems mentioned. Leggiero noted that state and local inspectors occasionally visited the plant--but with no visible improvement in plant conditions.

Mike Charney, a fourth year medical student, pointed out that many of these conditions could cause severe health problems. Kerosene fumes can cause skin irritation, depression and pneumonia; inhalation of mica dust may lead to lung disease.

**Workers Health Complaints**

At a second meeting, arranged by Ralph Capasso, President, and Ken Preis, Vice-President of Local 1370, IBEW, 15 workers from the Rockbestos Wire and Cable Corp. in Fair Haven (which employs 200 workers) complained of additional safety and health problems. Many workers complained of burning eyes from working with Methyl ethyl ketone (MEK). At certain concentrations this substance is explosive, can cause eye and respiratory damage, and unconsciousness. Another worker complained of chills and sweats from working with Teflon. Teflon fumes can cause serious lung damage.

One of the most serious problems mentioned was the high level of asbestos dust in the plant. (For further information on asbestos see accompanying column)

One worker pointed out that the problem of asbestos dust increased recently when the company changed its manufacturing process. The company used to wet the rolls of braided asbestos (which kept down dust levels) and later dried the rolls in ovens.

However, in an effort to shorten the process by one day and increase profits the company eliminated the wetting process, thereby increasing the amount of asbestos dust in the air.

**Worker Action Possible**

Members of the Occupational Health Project explained that although these problems are very serious there are things that workers can do to get their employers to correct them.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 all employers must now provide employees with a safe and healthful workplace and to obey rules and regulations issued by the Department of Labor.

There are regulations covering virtually all aspects and substances used in the workplace from asbestos to zinc. Employers face fines up to $1000 for violations of these regulations. Employers are also required to notify employees when levels of hazardous substances in the plant exceed federal standards.

Workers have a right to all information on the dangers they are exposed to. Workers can file complaints with the Department of Labor if they believe a safety or health standard is being violated or if a recognized health or safety hazard exists and can get a Federal inspector to their workplace. And when the inspector comes to the plant workers are allowed to accompany him and point out the violations.

To implement these rights some Unions have formed safety committees such as at Sargent's and Olin (See *Modern Times*, Dec. 1-15, p. 9). Other unions have submitted demands to their companies or included health and safety provisions in their collective bargaining contracts. And still others have filed grievances with their employers.

**Safety Electrical Equipment Corporation Workers far from safe on the job. (M-T photo by Steve Ney)**

# LABOR NOTES

### STATE EMPLOYEES MAKE ULTIMATUM

The State Legislature will be given a deadline of February 15 to come up with a cost-of-living increase for state employees. The deadline was originally made by the Connecticut State Employees Association (CSEA), and was unanimously supported by Council 16 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) at their September convention. If the deadline is not met, CSEA and AFSCME have served notice that they will take "job actions."

Judging by the success of the recent job action by AFSCME in the State Highway Department, the threat does not seem idle. After AFSCME snowplow operators in the highway department refused to accept a 24-hour on-call status, the State was forced to back down on its demands.

### P & W NO–STRIKE VOTE

Connecticut Pratt and Whitney workers, faced with the prospect of a long and bitter strike in a failing labor market, last week voted to accept management's offer rather than walk out to enforce their demands. Employment at Pratt and Whitney has dropped from 22,000 to 16,000 in the last 2 years. International Association of Machinists' Presdient Justin Ostro recommended a strike vote but stressed that the ultimate decision was up to the membership.

Ostro laid out the consequences of a strike to members in an open meeting, noting that strikers faced company cancellation of their insurance and low strike benefits from the already depleted national strike fund. The strike vote failed to carry by the required two thirds majority.

### OIL COMPANIES GET LOW TAX

According to Senator William Proxmire, major oil companies paid federal income taxes at a rate of only 8.7% -- a lower rate than for workers in the lowest tax bracket. Some examples from **U. S. Oil Week** are Gulf -- whose tax rate is 1.2% and Texaco whose tax rate is 6.4%. Standard Oil of Ohio, with a net income of $66 million, paid no federal tax at all but instead received a 10.4% tax credit, which it can apply to hold down taxes in future years.

### WAGES THE REAL TARGET

According to Edwin Dale, an economic analyst for the **New York Times**, the real target of Nixon's economic program is to slow down wage increases. He stated that the effort to control prices was window dressing -- "unavoidable for psychological and political reasons, but the real target is wages."

At the same time chronic unemployment continues. Although the official unemployment rate dipped to 5.6% in October from 6% in September (nationwide), economists and personnel officials questioned by the **N. Y. Times** (11/7) agreed that the "employment outlook is gloomy; it has not been stimulated by Phase One of the Nixon program and there could be more layoffs ahead...." Unemployment among blacks rose to 10.7% in October, the highest rate in eight years (**Economic notes** 12/71). In Connecticut almost half of the insured unemployed (45%) have been on the roles for over 15 weeks.

# Asbestos Poisons Millions of Americans

**from Industrial Hazards**, published by Scientists Committee for Occupational Health

Asbestos is a unique substance *because once it is breathed into the lungs, it remains there and the body is able to do nothing to remove it. Its two main effects are that it stimulates the formation of scar tissue, and that after many years in the lungs, it stimulates the growth of cancer.*

The scars formed in the lungs in *asbestosis* are small but they do make the lung stiff and firm and thus less air is able to enter the lungs. This increases the workload on the heart as it pumps blood through the lungs.

The second major effect on the body is the production of cancer. This occurs twenty to thirty years after exposure. It can arise from a single exposure since the asbestos particles never leave the lung.

**95 Times More Cancer**

Cancer in asbestos workers is closely related to cigarette smoking. It has been found that insulation workers who also *smoke have 95 times more lung cancer than a typical cross-section of the population. They have ten times more cancer of the intestines. They have ten times greater chances of getting mesothelioma -- a very rare cancer of the lining tissue of the chest.*

There is no exact information on how many American workers are exposed to asbestos fibers, but at least five million workers are indirectly exposed.

According to Dr. Irving Selikoff, professor of environmental medicine at New York's Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, "You can walk through an area in which there is a good deal of asbestos dust -- not just a factory, but a construction site where asbestos insulation is being used -- get one good lung full and it is with you for the rest of your life."

# 154 Workers at Wesleyan to File for Union Affiliation

Local 35, Federation of University Employees (F.U.E.), has announced that it has filed a petition for a Union representation election at Wesleyan University with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

The Wesleyan petition calls for an election among custodians, skilled tradesmen, groundsmen and other blue-collar employees in the Physical Plant and Residence Hall Departments. The approximately 154 workers involved will be voting on the Union representation in an election set for January 7th.

F.U.E. already represents some 1150 workers at Yale University, and recently signed a contract it calls "the best University contract in America" following a 51-day strike last spring. According to Vincent J. Sirabella, Local 35 Business Manager, Wesleyan workers contacted the Union "after hearing of the outstanding contract we negotiated at Yale."

"Many of these workers are experiencing steadily worsening working conditions," according to Sirabella. "Their wages, especially the skilled tradesmen, are very low, and their fringe benefits are dangerously weak, especially in the vital area of medical insurance."

**"Growing Unionism"**

Sirabella noted that "unionism among university employees is one of the fastest growing areas in the country and has been since the NLRB took jurisdiction over private colleges and universities two years ago" in a landmark case involving Yale.

Local 35 is an affiliate of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union. John Wilhelm, Business Agent of New Haven Local 217 (HREBIU) will work on the organizing drive.

# White Juggles Statistics To Justify Welfare Cuts

by Naomi Resnick
*Modern Times Staff*

On November 1, 1971, the payments given to families on welfare under the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program was scheduled to be reduced up to 30% and 40% of what they had been. This drastic cut in payments would have affected 130,000 Connecticut residents, both adults and children.

Eight women, all receiving AFDC assistance from the Connecticut State Welfare Department, felt this cut back in funds was illegal and unconstitutional and decided to do something about it.

They filed an injunction against Henry C. White, the Commissioner of Welfare of the State of Connecticut to prevent such an action from happening. Mrs. Tillie Gibbs, president of the Welfare Moms, says that the reason for the temporary injunction is that "basically people can't live on that type of budget."

Their case has been taken in part by David Lesser, William H. Clendenon Jr., and Stuart Bear, of the New Haven Legal Aid Association, who have been representing the Welfare Moms for the past two years.

**Contemptuous White**

On Tuesday, Dec. 7, U.S. District Judge Blumenfeld found White in contempt of court for implementing a partial flat grant system, even though the injunction was filed in October. The Welfare Department has had to return to its old system of payment. Mrs. Gibbs considers this a victory, but she hasn't stopped working. The Welfare Department says that they intend to put through new cuts when they can get back money they lost during the injunction.

The segment of the Social Security Act which White's cuts violated states that a "standard of need" must be established, and applied equally throughout Connecticut. A standard of need is made by taking a survey of how much money each family needs to live on. When the Welfare Dept. made their survey, they overlooked a few major items, and left out whole families and individuals.

The plaintiffs in this case charge that because of all these exclusions to the AFDC program, a fair average wasn't determined, and the standard of need was reduced below what's necessary. Mr. White and the Commission also failed to take properly into account the rise in the cost of living when the survey was taken.

**Unnecessary Items?**

Among the "unnecessary items" left out of the standard of need were school clothes and supplies, money spent while looking for work, telephone other than for medical reasons, or for living in rural areas, and moving costs for when a family moves but is not evicted.

Families were left out of the survey if brothers and sisters were living in different homes with different relatives. Certain working people were illegally denied aid under the AFDC program to which they were entitled, and weren't counted in the survey.

If a woman lived with a man who was neither her husband nor a relative, only her children who weren't related to the man could receive aid, and thus, more families were excluded from the survey.

Her main complaint against White and his whole board is that they have "no sense of what it is to be poor. You can only understand what it's like if you've been on welfare for a long time."

# New Fighters For Legal Rights

by Steve Ney
*Modern Times Staff*

*"In our office we handle all clients – when the client comes in, we do the initial interview, fill out the application forms, and if it is something that we can handle, that doesn't require services of an attorney, we'll go ahead and handle it – fair rent hearings, probationary hearings, bankruptcy, divorces, and just about everything else that comes in here...."*

These are the words of a recent graduate of the Dixwell Legal Rights Association (DLRA) *National Training Program* in New Haven, who now works in Mercer County Legal Services in Bluefield, West Virginia.

Many people know Dixwell Legal Rights as a New Haven legal services agency, but not many are aware that DLRA performs an important national role. DLRA trains community residents from all over the U.S. to be Legal Advocacy Workers (LAWS). After receiving training they return to their hometowns and work as "paralegals" – a new type of legal worker.

The basic premise of the training program is that community residents, often members of minority groups and persons without much formal education "can make a contribution in solving the legal problems of the poor," says Mrs. Ruth Robinson, Executive Director of DLRA.

**LAWS in New Haven**

In New Haven there are presently eight LAWS who work as paralegal personnel – helping people with their problems from welfare hearings to workmen's compensation to small claims. LAWS often handle a case from start to finish and in many ways are challenging the belief that only lawyers can handle legal problems. DLRA believes that the "premise that only lawyers can provide legal services not only perpetuates a professional monopoly but leaves many of the neediest unserved."

DLRA is trying to fight the "mystique of law and lawyers" through its training program. The paralegals whom they train are mostly poor, live in the neighborhood where they serve, and share a common background, language and interests with their clients, something most lawyers don't have.

The paralegals receive a month long training course, assisted by Mrs. Victoria Powell, who has played a major role in developing the curriculum. They learn about critical areas of the law such as landlord-tenant rights, welfare, and the rights of arrested individuals. But just as important is the field experience in New Haven.

**Some members of Dixwell Legal Rights Association are, (l. to r.) Louise Hall, Administrative Assistant; Lance Compa, Legal Researcher; Leatrice McClure, Legal Advocacy Worker (LAW); Ruth Robinson, Executive Director; Pearl Staton, Clerical Assistant; J. Otis Cochran, National Coordinator.**

The LAWS walk from door to door carrying on a program of legal education of the poor. They discuss in practical and personal terms people's legal problems. In the experience of DLRA the LAWS are perceived as "genuine, non-threatening helpers."

When LAWS return to their communities across the U.S. the lawyers whom they work with often have trouble adjusting to the new legal roles played by these newly trained community residents.

J. Otis Cochran, National Coordinator of DLRA tries to solve this problem by travelling around the country, visiting LAWS and their lawyers, to acquaint them with ways of using paralegal personnel.

'Some lawyers become suspicious of community trained people. We try to show that the LAWS have peculiar legal skills. And in addition to their ability to handle problems, LAWS are good community advocates. They get outraged when they see people getting messed over.'

# Welfare Services Split

by Naomi Resnick
*Modern Times Staff*

While the Welfare Department and its commissioner, Henry C. White, are being taken to court to halt their intended cuts in welfare payments, still other changes are taking place in welfare agencies which can hit their clients just as hard. The welfare agencies are reorganizing, and separating financial aid from the other social services which they perform.

Under the plan, called "separation of services," some welfare workers will do only paperwork, and others will be caseworkers who counsel recipients and do no paperwork.

The Connecticut Union of Welfare Employees (CUWE) and the Connecticut chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) are very concerned about this new plan. They are putting out leaflets and speaking with people to educate them about it.

According to one CUWE member, Jim Gaito, "Separation is good in theory, but it is a hoax without the proper staff." He points out that there are still not enough caseworkers, so problems of work overload remain.

**Service Requests Separate**

Under the new plan, unless a client specifically requests a service other than financial, no attempt will be made to supply that service. The welfare agencies will no longer make periodic evaluations of the needs of their clients for these services.

The services involved will be the ones already covered, but they will be regrouped and renamed. They include emergency housing, marital and parent-child counseling, investigations of complaints of neglect or abuse, court procedures, care for minor unwed mothers, adoption, care for children committed in institutions, help for children with severe problems, and general care and counseling for families with unusual needs.

**Rotating Teams**

The families will all be covered by "maintenance units" to administer these services. No one worker is assigned to a specific family as they were in the former plan. With this new system, a group of workers take turns in dealing with each family. This system doesn't enable one worker to build up ties with a family, or to take care of long range problems. Nor can a family come to know or trust the case worker assigned to them.

# Welfare Crisis- Priorities Wrong For All

by Joelle Dominski

**NEWS ANALYSIS**

Our country's welfare crisis is exploding at the seams with the wage freeze, rising prices and increased unemployment. Employed and unemployed alike are having a harder and harder time trying to make ends meet.

According to Governor Meskill and Welfare Commissioner White, the solution to the state's economic problems is to cut welfare expenditures. They hope to split and play off the employed taxpayers against welfare recipients. White states that taxpayers take the burden of providing for welfare recipients. He also implies the myth that welfare recipients are all black, well-paid and unwilling to work for a living.

White ignores the fact that many taxpayers throughout the state no longer accept discredited myths about welfare and about who recipients are. Hundreds of residents representing a wide coalition of community groups and welfare workers' unions have joined together in an organization called Urban and Suburban Taxpayers For Welfare Reform. Their educational program fights these myths that are used to create barriers between the employed and unemployed, taxpayers and welfare recipients.

**Myths Exploded**

The group emphasizes that for welfare recipients welfare cuts will mean a choice between facing evictions and having the children go without winter clothes and food. They point out that the majority of New Haven's 17,000 welfare recipients are white and unable to work full time because of age disabilities or lack of childcare. Many welfare mothers need to take part time work to supplement their checks and are forced into jobs with below living wages.

Welfare recipients and the other unemployed face the same problem when it comes to finding jobs. There are more layoffs each month, with few new jobs available. New Haven now has 13,000 residents collecting unemployment compensation. Job scarcity is not mentioned by Governor Meskill or Commissioner White when they imply that the welfare crisis would be solved if recipients would get jobs.

To begin to deal with the crisis a complete turnabout of national priorities is required. In a recent pamphlet the League of Women Voters calls for a new system that would "provide nationwide uniform benefits; include the working poor; train people for jobs that exist; provide incentives for working instead of penalties."

Similar programs are being put forward by groups of welfare mothers, which would benefit all workers. They are demanding guaranteed jobs for all and guaranteed minimum income for those unable to work. Adequate training and availability of daycare centers would be necessary to make such a plan work, and are needed immediately.

# NHFT Hits Uniform Code

*Modern Times Staff*

A uniform code of student conduct being formulated by the New Haven Board of Education has come under sharp criticism from the New Haven Federation of Teachers. The union called the code "inhumane," a statement reflecting the criticisms voiced by several educators at an open hearing called by the Board of Education to discuss the code.

Through the code the school board is attempting to establish fair and equitable standards of conduct which will be uniform for all of the city's middle and high schools. The Board's "tentative draft" calls for a uniform policy on student rights, dress, school and class attendance, tardiness, and criminal behavior.

The policy on student rights and responsibilities is especially encouraging because it sufficiently protects the constitutional rights of students to organize and express themselves politically. Other sections which were less encouraging, were the source of the Federation's dissatisfaction.

The Federation, while accepting the need for a uniform policy, maintained that a code could only be successful when students, parents and teachers had a significant role to play in its formulation. The union had previously criticized the Board for keeping the teachers and community in the dark for so long.

**Stronger Community Councils**

Specifically, the Federation called for the strengthening of the school community councils and student governments, as well as placing more emphasis upon the "real need to increase the Supportive Services to deal with the problems of the emotionally disturbed child." The union further criticized "the brazen attempt by (Board President) Steven J. Papa to bait the students who were in attendance into denouncing their teachers."

This was in reference to Papa's questioning of students at the hearing with a view toward placing the blame for student absences upon their teachers. The students did not respond as Papa had expected, and, instead, explained that there are multiple reasons why each student might choose to cut school.

At the hearing several educators, teachers, and administrators objected to the priorities being raised in the code. Students wearing hats in school, smoking, and cutting classes were items of special concern to the Board but not to the critics who called again and again for a more "humane" approach.

While appreciating the need for uniformity these critics urged the School Board to seek positive and alternative structural solutions designed to meet the individual needs of different kinds of students.

# Talk-Out On Schools

**by Matt Borenstein**
*Modern Times Staff*

On Saturday, December 11, the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation (FHNC) held an all day conference at the Fair Haven Middle School on problems in education.

Attendance at the conference was light at the beginning, however, there were representatives from Benjamin Jepson School Council, High School in the Community, the Unschool, Project Enough, Head Start, the Human Relations Council, Connecticut Mental Health Center, the New Haven Teacher's Center, and the Special Education Program.

Frank Annunziato of the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation stated the two main concerns of the conference: (1) What's wrong with public education? "Why do kids hate school and why are parents banging their heads against the wall when they try to change the schools?" (2) What are the ways a neighborhood corporation can relate to the problems in education?

**Parent Involvement**

Sam Miller of FHNC added that the conference was an attempt to get parents more involved.

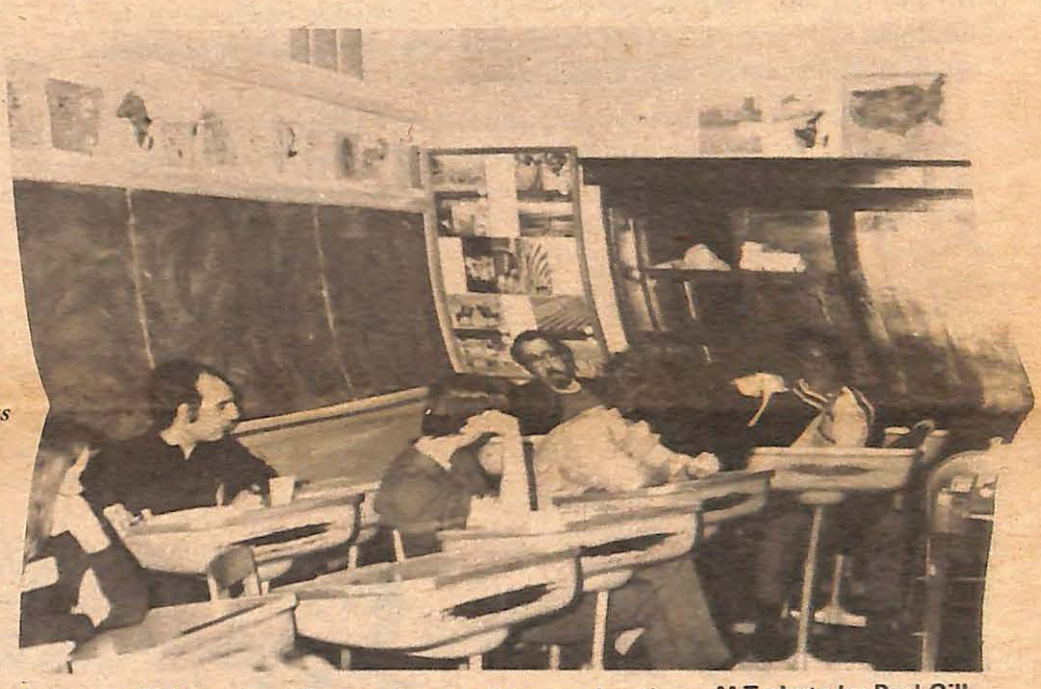
The conference began with a discussion of parent involvement in the schools. Fred Moore of Head Start, a pre-school program, said that the public schools turn parents off. The Head Start program is parent controlled. When children start kindergarten, Moore continued, there are signs on the door saying "no parents allowed." "If you keep locking people out for a long time, what do you expect?"

Fleming Vigorito of the Benjamin Jepson School Council saw some hope for the school councils. "If it wasn't for Benjamin Jepson (School Council), school councils would be dead," he said. School councils are only supposed to be advisory, but the Jepson Council challenged the selection of a new principal and the school curriculum.

**Workshops**

The conference then broke into two workshops; one on school councils and the teacher center and the second on educational alternatives. There were video tapes of the High School in the Community and the New Haven Teacher Center.

By one o'clock the attendance at the conference had grown to fifty and the movie "High School" was shown. Sam Miller of the FHNC said that the conference was only a beginning and that they would continue to try to involve more Fair Haven parents and students in trying to improve public education.



Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation meeting on education. M-T photo by Paul Gill

# Labor Reporter Views Workers' Repression

**by Peter J. O'Connell**
*Modern Times Staff*

Stories of solidarity among workers and the struggle against big business highlighted a talk by *Art Shields at the Angela Davis* Bookstore Forum on Sunday, December 5. The forum is part of a regular series of open meetings every month sponsered by the Marxist bookstore at 17 Broadway.

Shields, a writer for the **Daily World**, is a veteran labor reporter who has spent two-thirds of his 83 years in active support of workers'movements. Shields centered his talk around a review of **Rebellion in the Unions: A Handbook for Rank and File Action**, written by George Morris and published by International Publishers.

Shields gave some historical commentary about the "Molly Maguires" and the "Haymarket martyrs." The "Molly Maguires" were Irish labor organizers in the Pennsylvania coal fields who were hanged in the 1870's on charges made by a company police agent. The "Haymarket martyrs" were radicals executed in Illinois on unsubstantiated charges that they had incited the murder of a policeman at a rally for the eight-hour work day in 1886.

Most of Shield's anecdotal and reminiscent talk, however, dealt with events which he had observed at close hand rather than with earlier history. He discussed the Seattle general strike of 1934, the steel organizing drives of the 1930's, and the steel strikes of 1919 and 1959.

He compared the 1921 mining strike with the "black lung" movements of 1969 and 1970. In 1921 militancy reached such a peak that 10,000 armed miners took to the roads of West Virginia.

**Labor Militancy**

Recurrent themes in Shields'stalk were the militance of rank and file workers and their ability to unite despite ethnic differences and the suppression of their militancy by bad leadership of the George Meany-Tony Boyle variety. Shields also made the point, though, that a militant approach should not be taken unless there was *some chance that it could win some of its goals.*

*A group of about fifty, half black and half white, attended the forum and engaged in the discussions afterwards. The next meeting in the series will be at 3pm, Sunday, January 9. Gil Green will discuss his book* **The New Radicalism: Anarchist or Marxist?**

# Inhuman Jail Conditions Revealed

**by Henry Lowendorf**
*Modern Times Staff*

"The lavatory facilities in the (Whalley Avenue Jail) cells consist of a pail for body wastes. These are sometimes knocked over and not cleaned up for various reasons." There are "no tops on garbage cans because metal tops could be used as weapons. Body lice are a frequent finding on the prisoners' bodies (crabs)."

These were some of the findings reported to a hearing of the Sub-Committee on Corrections of the Connecticut State Legislature on December 9. Dr. Fred F. Smith, who made these comments, spent three months at Whalley Avenue Correctional Center as prison doctor.

Smith joined other members of the Citizens For Better Correctional Institutions (CBCI) in testifying about Connecticut prisons and putting forth numerous recommendations for improved prison conditions.

CBCI is made up of "70-80 individuals from every section of our community," stated Rev. James H. Davis, chairman pro tem of the group. Others who accompanied Davis and Smith to the Hartford hearing included Steve Frazzini of the New Haven Human Relations Council, Art Mazer and Carol Baer of the Medical Committee for Human Rights, former inmates and families of inmates, as well as unaffiliated citizens.

**Medical Units Needed**

Dr. Smith called for the construction of small medical units in all prisons the size of the Whalley Avenue Center. According to his findings, one reason prisoners received poor medical care was that inmates weren't sent to a hospital because the warden and guards feared the prisoner might make a break.

According to Davis' testimony illegal drugs are being smuggled into the prisons, leading recently to the death of an inmate at Somers Prison.

CBCI decried the lack of educational facilities especially for the pre-trial detainee. Examples were provided that a 16 year old was detained for five months at Whalley, and a 17 year old for 13 months without any opportunity for education. These youths were detained because their families could not afford bail.

The group asked that professionals, clergy, doctors, welfare workers, be allowed access to prisoners. At present each individual has to be approved by the prison administration.

**Recreation Needed**

Another proposal that CBCI made was for the inclusion of more work and recreational facilities in the new Whalley Avenue facility. One former inmate told the organization, "In the Whalley Jail there are no activities——except once a week movies and stand-in-line checkers."

In addition, CBCI suggested that there be special "units for persons with special problems, e.g., the transvestite, the homosexual, or others with some special or unique personality."

Guards should be chosen on the basis of social consciousness and minority representation should be a priority, according to Davis' testimony.

Another point discussed was the lack of adequate food, water and shelter. Davis mentioned reports that the "north block of Cheshire has no hot water and that toilet water is available at only certain times!"

**CBCI Goals**

The Citizens For Better Correctional Institutions is seeking "meaningful and humane change" in Connecticut's prison system. The group will not "hesitate to prod, criticize, suggest, and engage in differences with the Department of Corrections" in order to bring about progressive programs.

CBCI meets alternative Mondays at the First Methodist Church, 425 College Street, at 8 pm. The next meeting is December 20. All are welcome.

# Editorial

# Job Safety

Last week 20 construction workers were killed in a tunnel explosion in Port Huron, Michigan. This tragedy is shocking, but it is not an isolated event. The workplace, where most people spend the greater part of their waking hours, is probably the most dangerous and polluted of all environments.

15,000 workers are killed every year from occupational hazards or illnesses. Two million are known to be disabled annually through job-related accidents. The workplace is still threatened by hazards we have known about for years -- noise, gases, and lung disease from dust. In addition to the old problems are new ones involving high speed, lazers, microwaves, radioactive materials, and thousands of new kinds of chemicals.

The passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 at labor's urging gives workers an additional tool for action by placing primary responsibility where it should lie -- on the employer. Every worker is now guaranteed a workplace free from health and safety hazards by federal law. Workers have the chance to gain some control over the conditions of their labor.

But the goals of the Act and presumably of all workers cannot be achieved by relying on the government or industry. A recent study by the Department of Labor showed 79% of workplaces to have violations; yet fines placed on the employers averaged only $13.00. Less than half the necessary number of inspectors and funds have been authorized to enforce the Act. Employers *claim* to be interested in workers' safety, but they don't want it to cost them anything. They are only interested in safety to the extent that it increases profits.

The only ones who have a *real* interest in job safety and health are the workers. We support workers who are taking an active role in seeing that the Act is enforced. Some have set up safety committees within their unions to check out hazardous situations and to file complaints with their companies and ultimately with the government. In some places workers are beginning to monitor their own work environment to ensure that the company does not violate health and safety standards. We urge workers and unions to get in contact with the Occupational Health Project c/o New Haven Health Department or the Industrial Union Department, AFL-CIO, to get information on the law and how they can use it to improve the conditions under which they work.

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MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commerical papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of by their bosses. There is no place else where the hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.

We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need--not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement (AIM) has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich, powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent helath care and decent jobs.

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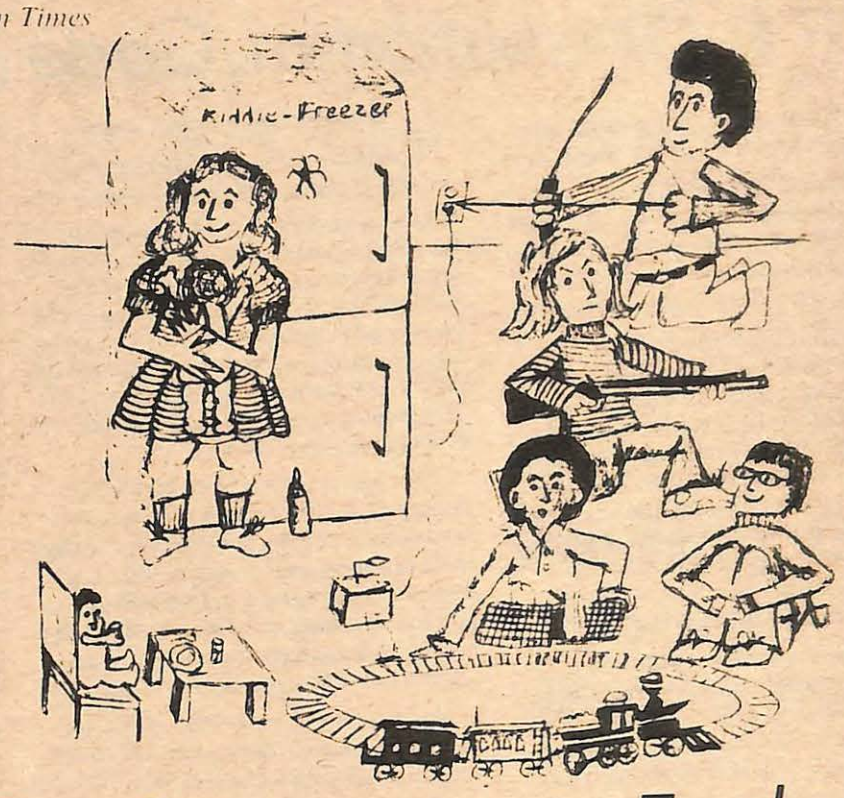



# Toy Departments Explored

by Pat Lowendorf
*Modern Times Staff*

In its readers' interest, **Modern Times** investigated three popular area stores to compare prices and content in the Children's Toy Department. When you consider buying a toy, ask yourself two questions: What is it teaching the child? And: Is it safe?

The three stores that were visited were Bradlees, Macy's and Grants.

### Macy's

Macy's seems to be price competitive with the discount stores in the area mainly because its sturdier, more creative toys are quite expensive. For example, its Voice of the Mummy game is $9.69. Its Playskool blocks are $4.99, and its model cars and ships are higher priced and also more involved to work with.

Macy's has an entire shelf of 88 cent toys, cheap but colorful. I was impressed with Macy's wide selection of black dolls (Tamu: "I say, 'Cool it! Baby' ".), as well as Indian dolls. There were no war toys that I could see, very few guns and a nice array of puppets. Macy's does not have many games or crafts or things to build.

### Bradlees

Bradlees toys are roughly divided into little girl toys (bake set with a picture: *she's* feeding *him*; Glamor Girl Makeup Kit, ages 3-7; dolls -- "Softykin", "Pretty Pants", "Powder Puff", etc.) and little boy toys (cars -- Zingers, Ramchargers, Stogies, I'll Gasser; Tinker Toys.

There is a sexist tone in the toy department which assumes that all boys behave one way and all girls another. Not surprisingly, there is also an undertone of violence. Guns were everywhere: rifles, pistols, sawed-off shotguns.

There was a whole section on rifle ranges and targets which featured swinging birds and animals. There were few really intelligent toys as exampled by this one stamped "A Child GuidanceToy": it was a parking garage! They did have a highly breakable Human Anatomy for $1.39. They had one black doll. Most of the crafts were cheaply made and were indicated as being for girls.

### Grants

I was pleasantly surprised by the absence of war toys. There were a few cowboy guns in a small section, and most of the games, including the Chemistry and Erector sets, had pictures of both boys and girls on the cover. There were lots of puzzles, paint and craft sets and two black dolls. Stuffed animals began at $2.97, but the selection wasn't large. Not counting sports items, Grants seems to have the largest selection in terms of price.

A toy teaches. It steers the child toward its future role. Christmas toys may say far more to your child than you dream or intend. When you buy a toy for a child, what does it say about you?

| ITEM | MACY'S | GRANTS | BRADLEES |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tonka Camper (avg.size -- B. carried only the large; another brand at M. - Hubley - seemed sturdy and cheaper.) | $3.79<br>1.79 | $3.47 | $12.88 |
| Tea set (4 pc.) | 2.19 (3 pc.) | 1,17 | 1.69 |
| Puzzles (500 pcs.) -- Milton Bradley | 1.19 (not many) | $ .69 -1.00 (many more) | .97 (not many) |
| Baby carriage (small) | 4.99 | 3.96 | 3.97 |
| Parker Bros. game -- Hurry Up | 4.49 | 4.97 | 3.88 |
| Tool Chest (might be cheaper to make your own) | none | 4.44 | 2.47 |
| Sesame Street toys | mixed | 4.79 | none |
| Dolls: (the most popular ones) | | | |
| Malebu Barbie | 2.88 | 2.97 | 2.88 |
| Ideal's Crissy | 12.99 | 9.97 | 11.88 |
| Mattel's Timey Tell | 12.99 | 13.97 | none |

## CHRISTMAS VIGIL FOR ANGELA DAVIS

The New Haven Young Workers Liberation League and the New Haven Committee to Free Angela Davis are sponsering a Christmas Day vigil. The picket line will be in solidarity with demonstrations across the country demanding jail reform, and freedom for Angela Davis and all political prisoners. The 11 a.m. vigil will take place in front of the Whalley Ave. Jail. All who have a concern for human life are to come and show your support. Bring signs and yourself.

# Employer's Tactics to Divide Workers

by Rick Wolff
*Economist*

"Now that she's a supervisor, she's as bad as any company boss never stops pushing us around." "So what. Just because she was on the union committee that doesn't mean she shouldn't try to better herself." "Yeah, my cousin's gone to foreman from being chief shop steward. More money. Guess I'd do the same."

"Are you kidding? You get more money but they can fire you at any time for any reason or no reason — you get no security." "Well, all I can say is that any union member who deserts to the boss is just a plain fink, selling out their friends and their people for a few bucks — it stinks."

These bits of conversation warm up the union meeting. The union is in trouble. An active member just took a job offered by the boss. People are troubled. Some are angry, some depressed. Some are jealous because they were not offered the job.

Something important is happening here. There are some lessons we need to learn from this conversation. We can start by going back to first principles.

### United We Stand

**What makes people strong? When they stand together, united. What makes working people strong? When in unions they come to recognize their strength. It sounds so obvious. It's logical. And it's true.**

Yet *it's also true that most American* working people have not yet organized themselves into strong unions. And even where unions exist, they are so often far less strong than they could be if the members acted together, united. Why?

One big reason is the employers' determined and very successful campaign to divide employees. It's an old campaign that has been going for just as long as there have been employers on one side and employees on the other. It's not hard to figure out why.

So long as only a few people are employers making the profits, while most people are workers producing the profits for those employers, you've got a risky situation. It's risky for the employer.

Because he will lose his profits the instant the workers unite and thereby by uniting wield their power as society's majority to decide on wages, working conditions and what is to be done with the profits that they, as workers, have produced by their labor.

### Divided We Lose

**The problem is this: whenever a working man or woman shows some spirit and leadership in a shop or office, the boss takes notice. If that person is an active unionist fighting to protect and advance the interests of fellow workers, the boss takes more careful notice.**

The boss approaches the person, usually secretly, and offers a job with management — as a foreman, as a supervisor, etc. This is a critical moment of truth for the boss, the union activist leader and for all the other workers in the place. What will happen?

Sad to say, in many, many cases the job offer is accepted. The man or woman who accepts thinks, "Here is a way for me to better myself, to get ahead. Isn't that what I want? Isn't that what I should do for my family as well as for me?"

The boss is overjoyed. He's found an individual with real leadership abilities and brought that person over to management's side. What is more, he has thereby deprived the rest of his workers of that leader's talents and energies in their defense.

### Better for Who?

But over the long run, the boss is most overjoyed about what he knows will happen to the strength of the union and to the morale of the workers when their leader deserts to the other side.

Next time an energetic worker decides to restore life to the union, to stand up and and fight for working people's rights, the rest of the workers will be suspicious. Is this leader someone they can trust or just an ambitious seeker for a management position?

**And when workers feel that they cannot trust the activists among them, the leaders who emerge from them, then you have a weak union. And that is the goal of the employer.**

The list of shop-stewards who have become foremen is a very long list. So the doubt and suspicion of many workers has come to run deep. Is that perhaps why more working people don't unionize?

It's not easy to deal with this problem. Sure, we could say that working people ought to have the high principles which would make them turn down the boss's offer of a management job. But what good is just saying that, unless we know how to build up those principles in ourselves and in all working people.

We haven't yet got a solution, so I can't print one here. But there are some ideas we should think over as we work our way toward a solution.

Unions should (some already do) require their elected leaders to swear an oath not to accept any management job for at least 5 years after holding office. Another idea is to bar from union membership any person who ever accepted a management job during or after holding an elected union position.

It has also been suggested to adopt a union policy of refusing to cooperate with any company official who took his or her job while a union official. This might make a boss think twice about the usefulness of hiring a person like that.

In the end, of course, the best solution will be a growing breed of union activists who stick with their fellow workers.

## World Affairs

## Puerto Rico
# Independence Movement Grows

by Steve Ellner
*Modern Times Staff*

*This is the third of three articles on Puerto Rico and Puerto Ricans.*

Many of us who struggle against particular forms of social injustice in this country realize that our goals will be reached only through a fundamental overhauling of our political and economic system. Similarly, for nearly two decades, the Puerto Rican Pro-Independence Movement (MPI) has brought many thousands of their people into struggles around specific issues in order to relate those problems with long range goals, such as political independence.

The independence movement dates back to the struggle against Spanish colonial rule in the 19th century. Throughout the 1930's and 40's, the cause was led by the Nationalist Party, a small but highly disciplined and militant group. Their activity culminated in the October 30, 1950 uprisings which occurred simultaneously in many areas and succeeded in getting control of the inland town of Jayuya.

Although militarily unsuccessful, the revolt did bring world attention to the colonial plight of the Puerto Rican people. Albizu Campos, the leader of the Nationalist Party who had spent most of his last 30 years in jail, is regarded by the Puerto Rican people as a popular hero.

Since 1950 the independence movement, under the guidance of the MPI, has undergone important changes. The MPI, unlike the Nationalist Party, sees the working class as the key vehicle in the struggle. In addition the MPI has gone beyond the Nationalist goal of mere political independence. In the words of its secretary-general Juan Mari Bras, the MPI upholds the "right of the Puerto Rican working class to the progressive socialization of all the means of production, taking them out of the hands of both strangers and nationals, and the construction of a socialist society where there will be neither exploited nor exploiter."

A recent important change in the movement occurred at the 8th national MPI convention in San Juan. The MPI decided to transform itself into a "political party" under the name Puerto Rican Socialist Party (PSP). This structural change will bring about greater unity within the organization.

A majority of the 500 persons attending this first PSP meeting were young workers most of whom have been activists in the struggles of the 1960's. They are familiar figures in the land invasions of Loiza in the northwest, where hundreds of poor families have occupied government land and constructed rent-free shantytowns. They are also known in Pinones, where a predominantly black population has been fighting a government plan to take over their land in order to develop a new tourist complex.

One important result of the first PSP conference was the decision to reconsider the MPI election boycott. Previously the MPI had refused to participate with the statehood and "commonwealth" parties in the elections. (Accordingly, one must regard with skepticism the U.S. State Department argument that Puerto Ricans oppose independence since hardly any of them vote for the independence candidate.)

Characterizing the elections as a "political carnival," the MPI maintained that they had "degenerated into a debate of publicity agencies who are solely interested in the millions of dollars that are distributed to the newspapers, radio and television." In boycotting the elections, the MPI also wished to protest the fact that final say for granting Puerto Rico its independence resides not in the Puerto Rican people, but in the U.S. Congress.

Now however the MPI has decided that engaging in a limited form of electoral politics may be advantageous.

The new PSP will undoubtedly carry on the MPI struggles around issues such as land and housing, higher wages, and better working conditions, and against the drafting of young Puerto Ricans into the U.S. armed forces. In addition, they may run a few candidates in the elections. Behind all these forms of struggle is a certain kind of psychology: when the Puerto Rican people win the small battles around specific issues, they will gain confidence for waging a more important battle — of which all people on the island are intensely conscious — the struggle for political independence.

# Coal Workers, Longshoremen Hold Out During Freeze

by Matt Borenstein
*Modern Times Staff*

Three events on the national labor scene have presented strong challenges to Nixon's wage freeze program.

The United Mine Workers, representing 90,000 soft coal miners, reached a settlement after a 45 day strike for an estimated 16% wage increase - far in excess of the 5.5% Phase II guideline.

The strike of Atlantic and Gulf Coast Longshoremen which began on October 1 was halted by a government request for a Taft-Hartley injunction on Nov. 26. The injunction, which originally called for a 10-day cooling off period, was extended an additonal 70 days (until Feb. 16) on December 4. A similar injunction against West Coast longshoremen expires on December 24.

The AFL-CIO has actively begun to set up Price Watchdog committees in cities across the nation. According to Leo Perlis, AFL-CIO director of Community Services, "between now and January 31 we have scheduled 250 meetings in various parts of the country and the list is likely to rise to 300."

**The Coal Miners**

The leadership of the United Mine Workers reached a settlement with the coal companies on Nov. 13 after a 45 day strike. The settlement calls for a raise in the average daily wage of a miner from $37 to $48 over the next three years and an increase in the coal companies' payments to the Welfare and Retirement fund from 40 cents to 80 cents a ton.

**The contract also called for a 16.8% wage increase for the first year. Although the Pay Board had set a guideline of *5.5%, it approved the coal settlement. The Price Commission then approved price increases in coal from 3% to 5%.***

Another wrinkle in the coal strike settlement was that many miners were dissatisfied with the new contract. In the United Miner Workers, rank-and-file approval of contracts is not required. As a result, 15,000 miners in western Pennsylvania and West Virginia refused to return to work in defiance of the United Mine Workers leadership.

Dissident groups in the union like Miners for Democracy, the Black Lung Association, and the Disabled Miners and Widows groups wanted a six-hour day, guaranteed pensions for retired and disabled miners, and increased pensions; also, a guaranteed five-day work week, power to the union Safety Committees, and rank-and-file ratification of all contracts.

The six-hour shift, the dissident groups say, would expose the miner to less coal dust and provide more jobs for the area's unemployed.

The miners who did not return to work were also angry that the leadership did not win paid sick leave in the new contract. The UMW is the only major union that does not have paid sick leave and is perhaps in the most injury-prone and health-damaging (Black Lung) industry.

**Dock Strike**

The East and Gulf Coast longshoremen, members of the International Longshoremen of America (ILA) have been ordered back to work by a Taft-Hartley "80 day cooling off period."

*The strike began on October 1 when the ILA contract expired and the New York Shipping association refused to keep the old contract in force while negotiations proceeded.*

Without a contract, the New York longshoremen walked out and the rest of the East and Gulf Coast dock workers followed suit. The New York agreement usually sets the basic wage pattern for the other ports. The New York Shipping Association wanted to change the guaranteed annual income provision in the old contract.

The income plan entitles eligible dock workers to 2,080 hours' pay per year whether there is work available or not. It is a major job-security item for the union - especially because of the increase use of automated cargo-handling techniques.

**With the Taft-Hartley injunction in force, the Shippers are forced to pay the guaranteed wage at least until February 16. Last Oct. 9, the West Coast dock workers were forced back to work by a similar injunction. Nearly 250 ships had been sitting in ports for up to 100 days during the strike. The injuncion runs out on the West Coast on Dec. 24.**

**Price Watchdog Committees**

The AFL-CIO has begun its Operation Watchdog. The object of the program is to set up committees composed of union members and community leaders in cities around the country to keep an eye on price increases. The AFL-CIO, which represents over 13 million workers, wants to see how well prices are really held down.

American corporations now have a legal ceiling on wage increases of 5.5% This is automatically enforced since employers would hardly want to pay more, and could pay less.

No such enforcement exists for price increases. The AFL-CIO, therefore, intends to do its own price monitoring to be run through union and community organization units. In many cities there will be central union information and reporting centers.

According to Leo Perlis of the AFL-CIO, as of December 5 they had involved 30,000 people -all volunteers - in 140 cities.
*(See related story on the New Haven Committee)*

# Nader: Local Prices Rising

by Henry Lowendorf
*Modern Times Staff*

Food prices in the Hartford area rose one percent in a three week period at the end of Phase I of the wage price freeze, according to a survey recently made public. The survey was performed by Ralph Nader's Connecticut Citizen Action Group, the Buyers' Action Center, and students from the Ethel Walker School.

On November 11, 18, and December 2, 1971, survey participants visited 42 grocery outlets representing 6 chain stores in Greater Hartford communities.

The total cost of 43 items was compared: between the 6 supermarket chains (A & P, Finast, Grand Union, Motts, Popular, and Stop 'n Shop), between the eight towns, between grocery outlets in competitive situations, and between high, middle, and low income neighborhoods.

The 43 items represented meat, produce, grocery, and dairy products.

Besides the one per cent increase over three weeks, the survey showed that there was up to an eight percent differential in average cost of food between chains. And that prices of food in high income areas exceeded prices in low income areas by nearly two percent.

The evidence also showed that whether a store had competition from other food stores had no effect on the prices charged in the respective supermarkets.

# Miners Struggle For Union Democracy

## Yablonski Talk

by Lance Compa
*Yale Law Student*

Joseph "Chip" Yablonski, Jr., spoke to several groups at Yale during a day-long visit to New Haven. Yablonski is a lawyer for the Miners for Democracy (MFD), an opposition group within the United Mine Workers (UMW). The Miners for Democracy are seeking to reform the corrupt, authoritarian practices of the present UMW leadership.

Chip Yablonski spoke first to the Medical Committee on Human Rights, a an organization of workers, students, nurses and doctors who are pushing for better health care for poor and working-class people. He described the horrors of black-lung disease and the ineffectiveness of most laws and programs designed to fight it. He commended workers in New Haven who are organizing to demand better health conditions in their factories.

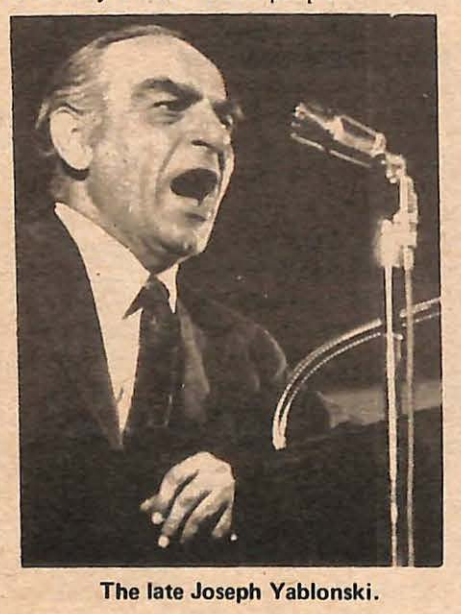
Yablonski then spoke at the Law School, where he told of weak enforcement of the labor laws by the Nixon Labor Department. The Department is supposed to guard unions against corrupt and undemocratic behavior by Union officers. Present UMW officers have expelled MFD activists on trumped-up charges of slander; they have stuffed ballot boxes in district elections, and have used trusteeship powers to take over districts where MFD are a majority. They have voted themselves enormous pensions and bonuses and have taken millions in dues from pensioners who under the Union Constitution do not have to pay dues.

## Ecology Tied To Miner Fight

by Steve Ellner
*Modern Times Staff*

"The main task is not to change or destroy the Mine Workers' Union, although right now that group is corrupt and its interconnections with the government and the companies are blatant. Rather it is to restore strength to the union and make it what it once was."

Art Keyes, a Yale Divinity student underscored this point in an interview with **Modern Times**, shortly after the appearance last week of Chip Yablonski in New Haven. Yablonski is the son of Joseph Yablonski, who, after running for the presidency of the United Mine Workers in 1969, was murdered along with his wife and daughter. Chip spoke at four different sites in New Haven, attended by a total of 200 people.



**The late Joseph Yablonski.**

Art Keyes has a two fold interest in the mineworkers' struggle. First he is from a coal mining area in southwestern Pennsylvania, the same county, in fact, in which the Yablonskis resided. Art himself had been active in the Miners for Democracy, the rank and file miners' group which had run Yablonski as a candidate.

Secondly, Art is working with a Yale environment group and sees the issues of strip-coal mining and occupational health and safety as important environmental issues.

These important issues include fighting black lung disease and demanding inspection of the mines. According to Art, the main thrust of any activity on the miners' behalf must be to publicize the case. This is one area where students can help by performing research and generating pressure on the Federal Government.

Up to now, the Nixon Administration has acted only to sabotage the most important rank and file demand which is to bring about honest elections in place of the 1969 fraudulent one.

For Keyes the activities of the rank and file miners suggest a new and important relationship between the public and the unions. This is underscored by their unity of interest and their dependence on one another. Only through a concerned and educated public will the government be forced to grant the miners an honest election.

Similarly, environmental problems which affect everybody regardless of their work status, can best be dealt with by the workers themselves, demanding an end to the violation of the environment by big corporations.

## "Watchdog" Group

*Continued from page 1*

**Sirabella said he personally felt the price controls "had more holes in them than the biggest swiss cheese." He said he hoped the Community Coordinating Committee would bring all this information to the public in the form of "concrete facts."**

There was one disruptive note to the meeting. Three or four unionists and one student who said he was from the "Workers' League" at Southern Connecticut State College demanded that Sirabella call an immediate general strike of area unions in order to fight the wage-price controls. Sirabella said this notion was "romantic" at this time and said the whole proposal had no place at this meeting since it was called to set up a price watchdog committee.

The unruly group continued to speak on the subject even though they were ruled out of order. Finally they were shouted down by the assembly and the work of building the price watchdog committee continued.

N.H. Women Report

# Right On Abortion Rally

by Rhea Hirshman

It was easy to locate the women from New Haven at the West side of the Capitol during the November 20th rally for repeal of abortion restrictions. They were the group bouncing joyfully to the first sounds from the New Haven Women's Liberation Rock Band.

As the rally progressed and the band played between speakers, people danced all over the green. It struck me that the overwhelming atmosphere of the afternoon was one of--odd as it may seem to use this word--joy.

I wondered if the "Right to Life" demonstration on the other side of the Capitol grounds were infused with as much glee. It seemed as if we were all young. But a closer look revealed also that many people were older than they appeared.

### Feeling of Ritual

A demonstration such as this is symbolic. It is a kind of ritual, although it took place in the raw, dull sun of November rather than in the green light of spring, when most rituals of awakening occur. The feeling of ritual was increased when telegrams were read, messages from women in Rome, in Canada, in England, messages which said "we are here, we are with you."

The symbolic value of such a demonstration is great and important. In wondering, however, about the "political" (in the largest sense) importance of the afternoon, what began to connect is that the Women's Movement is a "political" as well as a personal one. It has always seemed that the essence of the Women's Liberation movement is the individual woman who begin to look at their lives. But several of the speakers pointed out as well the political implications of women's increased awarenesses.

Lana Clark Phelan, a woman who has worked on the "Abortion Handbook", reminded the crowd that women compose 53% of the population: she encouraged women and men to demand that candidates for political office describe their views on women's rights.

She also spoke of the political implications of the abortion issue: now that it is desirable to have a decreased rate of population growth, abortion laws might be easier to repeal. "Morality and expediency are bed-partners," she said, and continued to suggest that therefore, the "right thing" (repeal of anti-abortion laws) might well be done in the near future for "the wrong reasons."

It would have been hard to find somber faces that afternoon. Perhaps the source of the joy was touched on by Carol Henderson Evans, from Boston WONAAC (Women's National Abortion Action Coalition), who spoke about the importance of feeling powerful. The personal and political are two sides of the same coin: it is hard to be or feel politically powerful if one feels personally helpless.

### The Other Demonstration

The 6:00 pm news broadcast from Washington gave a brief report on the two demonstrations which had occurred on opposite sides of the Capitol. The coverage of the Right to Life demonstration included a snip of a speech by a Senator Logan, who championed the "rights of those Americans yet unborn."

People on the East side of the Capitol wore buttons asking, "Aren't you glad your mother didn't have an abortion?" "Of course," I answered mentally, "but she should have been able to have a safe and dignified one had she wanted it. I wouldn't have known the difference..."

And it occurred to me then that perhaps the outburst of joy had an additional side, that it also served to counteract for us the absurdities that we continually confront.

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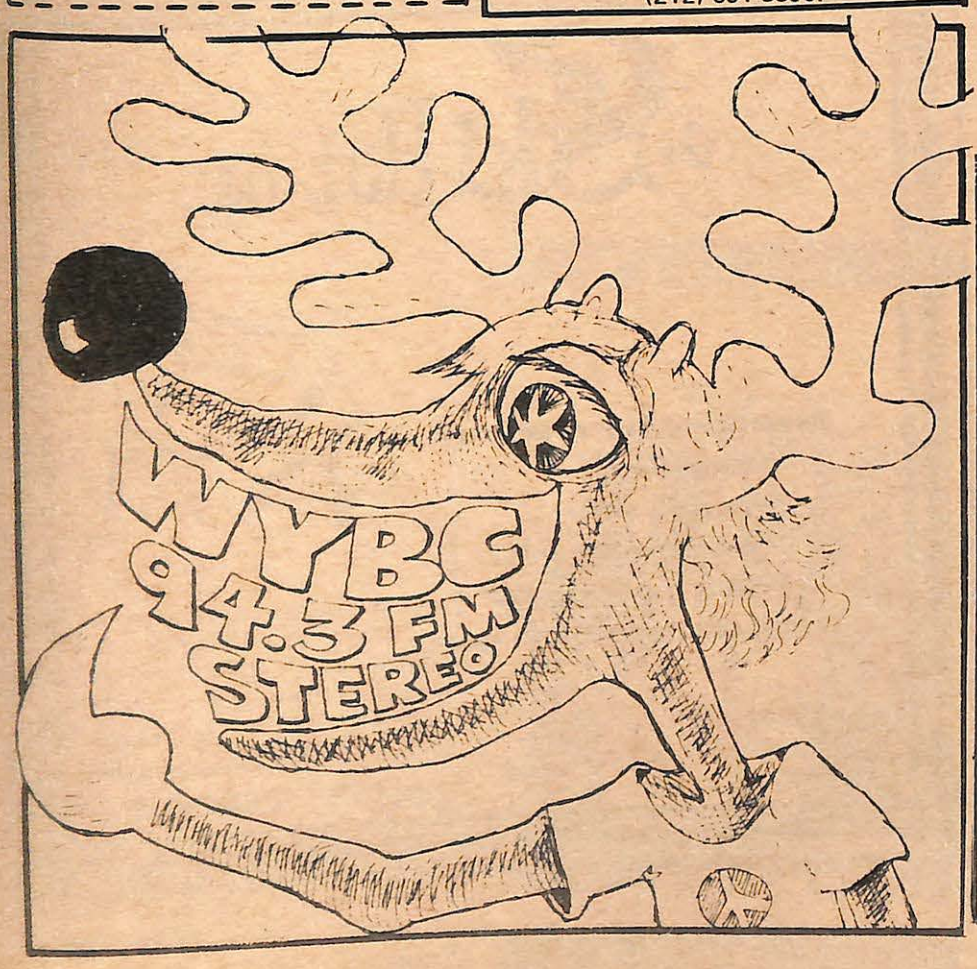


# PERISCOPE

## On The Environment

by Tony Dominski

### Students to Organize Pollution Conference

Ralph Nader's Connecticut Citizen Action Group is sponsoring a series of regional workshops and a statewide conference on the "Politics of Pollution". A meeting held Thursday at Lee High School to begin planning the event drew about 50 high school students from the New Haven area. Students organized around workshops in such ecological fields as transportation, occupational health, land use, solid waste, and population.

High school students interested in joining this effort should contact Chris Keenan in Hartford (1-527-9178) or Michael Kane in New Haven (787-7186).

### UI Towers

The Connecticut Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has approved United Illuminating's petition to build "nineteen modern-design steel poles with upswept arms." The poles will carry two 115,000 volt transmission lines overhead from the English Generating Station to the new, proposed electric plant on the east shore of New Haven harbor.

At public hearings fifteen months ago, there was almost unanimous opposition to the proposal by community groups. The Board of Aldermen responded to public demand by voting against it as well.

Although U.I. has stated that the 140 foot high towers will be as visually unobjectionable as possible, the PUC has directed U.I. "to plan and install a line of trees and/or shrubs along the western sides of Quinnipiac Park to screen and shield from view that section of line running parallel to the park. . ." Residents of Fair Haven, near which the line will run, have indicated interest in where to buy 140 foot tall shrubs.

### Connecticut Anti-Highway Coalition

On December 9 the Connecticut Anti-Highway Coalition met in Hartford. The meeting was sponsored by The Ralph Nader Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG).

People from all over Connecticut joined to fight Routes 34 in New Haven, 44 in the northeast corner of the state, 66 in Meriden, I-84 in eastern Conn., I-86 through Glastonbury, I-291 looping around Hartford, and I-95 through Old Lyme.

A spirited discussion centered on state legislation which would stop funds for new highway construction. The coalition agreed to meet in Hartford again on or around December 21 to support the Mettler Bill which would abolish the State Highway Fund.

Anyone who wishes to take part against the highway lobby may call the New Haven office of CCAG, 787-7186.

## Oil Slick Skids Along West Haven Beach

Collar contains oil slick in New Haven Harbor. New low sulfur oil coagulates more than other oils and clogged a vacuum sweeper, requiring workers to remove it by hand. (M-T photo by Virginia Blaisdell.)

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# Review "Catonsville Nine" On Stage

by Naomi Resnick
*Modern Times Staff*

Coming right to the point of this review, "The Trial of the Catonsville Nine" is a truly powerful, beautifully written play which I urge anyone who chances to read this to see. It was written by Father Daniel Berrigan, and deals with a political action taken against the War in Indochina by himself and eight other people. On May 17, 1968, the Catonsville Nine burned, with a crude form of napalm, the draft records of Local Board 33 in Catonsville, Maryland.

In the play, we see the outcome of the action; the courtroom scene where all nine are on trial for their deeds. The stage, which was very bare, but very convincing, was so set up that the audience was the jury. Opposite the jury, in the center of the stage, sat the judge, who looked as though he was taken directly from the hundreds of courtrooms we see on TV.

On the right side of the stage sat the lawyer for the government, and his one witness, a secretary from the Draft Board. To the left of them sat the Catonsville Nine, among them Father Dan Berrigan, who also served as the very eloquent narrator of the play.

"The blood stained face of history" M-T photo by Robert Withers

One by one, several of the defendants took the witness stand and told what had led up to their dramatic action. They explained how the war was completely contrary to all the humanistic and just beliefs they all held.

Some of the most impressive moments of the play were those in which Father Phil Berrigan defended his participation in burning the draft records through his religious beliefs. He said that at this time "in the blood-stained face of history" a true Christian is "one who acts on what he believes...the time has passed when good men can remain silent."

**Defendants Found Guilty**

After the testimonies the defendants all stood and recited the "Our Father" prayer. The stage became quiet, and the films (part home movies and part documentaries) which opened the play were shown once again. Chills run up your spine as you wonder how these nine people are sent to prison while the real criminals - the ones who are responsible for the killing - are free and encouraged to do more killing. I'm reminded of the testimonies of two of the defendants in which they say, "Surely it is better to pour napalm on draft records than on humans," and "We were destroying property. But the Draft is destroying the most sacred property of all -- life."

I'm convinced that the impact of the play couldn't have been any stronger if the real Catonsville Nine were in it.

"The Trial of the Catonsville Nine" can be seen at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, corner Chapel and Olive, Friday and Saturday at 8:30 pm. and Sunday at 7:30 pm, until December 19. Tickets are $ 2.50. For information and reservations, call 387-7266.

# Local Forces At National Anti-War Meet

by John Ratliff
*Vietnam Veterans Against the War*

On the week-end of Dec. 3-5, eight New Haven area Peace activists took the long journey to Cleveland, Ohio, to participate in a national anti-war conference. We joined others from Connecticut and over 1400 people from 40 other states at Cuyahoga Community College to plan for the anti-war movement's activities in the weeks and months ahead.

About half the conference members were students, but there were almost 200 trade unionists there and a good deal of the discussion was spent on the question of how to involve labor against the war.

**Demonstrations Next Spring**

The perspective adopted by the convention was the one which almost all of the Connecticut people supported. It called for a continuation of mass, non-violent, legal demonstrations around the slogans "End the Bombing Now; End U.S. Involvement in Southeast Asia Now."

The need to keep the anti-war movement independent and visible and the war a central issue in American life was often mentioned. The focus for the Spring activities will be massive national demonstrations to be held in New York and a West Coast city on April 22, 1972.

Besides building participation in that action and as a means for doing so, local peace groups will undertake intensive educational activities to refute administration ruses that the war is "winding down." Another area of intensive work is to be in the area of trade union task *forces on inflation, the wage-freeze, and the war.*

**Local Events**

Local demonstrations were called for on the week beginning April 15 and ending on the 21st to build for April 22. Black moratoriums were also called for.

In the immediate future we will sponsor bake sales in New Haven to get funds for the educational offensive. In mid-February New Haven will sponsor a state-wide anti-war conference to help in the educational and out-reach effort and to help build for April 22 and the possible local actions which will precede it.

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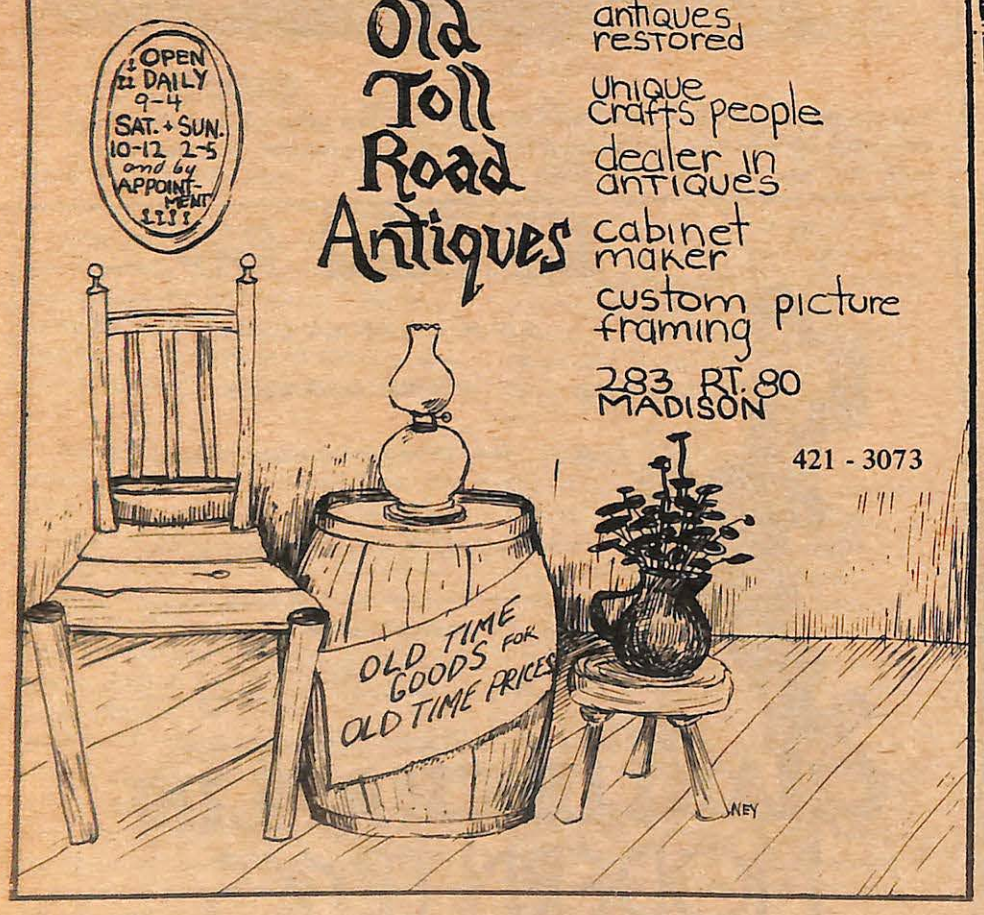


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# Review

## "The Contractor"

John Cazale and Emory Battis in the Long Wharf Theater presentation of David Storey's The Contractor.

by Joan Stone

The setting of the Long Wharf Theatre in the midst of New Haven's wholesale food area always fills me with great expectations. Theatre there should be down to earth, vital. But more often than not, there's little exchange between the bustle outside and the play inside the theatre.

The current production of "The Contractor" by David Storey sounded promising. It was advertised as a play about workers, whose relationship would unfold in the course of constructing a tent before the audience's eyes.

Storey comes from the north of England. His father is a coal miner. He worked his way through art school by playing professional rugby and first became prominent as the author of *This Sporting Life*, an expose of professional rugby.

Clearly the mining town and rugby are now part of Storey's past. This play at the Long Wharf is very comfortable. A group of workmen are putting up a tent for a suburban wedding. The daughter of Ewbank, a tent contractor, is getting married to a doctor. The tent has been made specially for the occasion and is being pitched on the grounds of the family home.

**Workers without Dignity**

Who are the men putting up the tent? Fitzpatrick, the archetypal Irish workman, who uses his wit to uncover the skeleton in the closet of each of his co-workers. Marshall, Fitzpatrick's foil, married four times but never to the right woman. Bennett, who saw better days until his wife left him. Kay, the foreman of the job, who spent time in jail for embezzlement. Glendenning, a "lovable" stuttering half-wit. With such a group, the banter never falters. There's always someone for "Fitzy" and his echo "Marshy" to taunt and tease.

Ewbank, the contractor, refers to the crew as "misfits" that no one else would hire. The workers themselves claim no union would ever have them. By depicting the workers this way, Storey moves the play's action away from the main struggle between capital and labor. And when a potentially explosive moment occurs – the foreman fires a worker but is overruled by the contractor – there are no grounds for a confrontation. The misfits go back to their jobs and get a swallow of scotch from the boss after they've finished.

If Storey robs the characters of their dignity as workers, he also robs them of their dignity as misfits. They're not so destitue and depraved that the very effort to talk and act becomes heroic.

The touching middle. The banter flows along easily. Violence is just below the surface and erupts occasionally, but there are no long silences, no bursts of talk or laughter or abuse such as a tape recorder could pick up on any construction site. Storey tells us that a working man's life is hard, especially when he's a misfit but a boss's life is also hard. Ewbank has a worthless son and his money's run out, property and tents all mortgaged. Poor misfits, poor contractor – a touching play as the businessman in front of me put it.

An exciting production can sometimes save a play, and by making it necessary to pitch and strike a tent, Storey gave the director interesting material with which to work. However, the tent went up and came down too easily. There was no wind to contend with in the Long Wharf Theatre. The most difficult parts of the construction were there when the play began and remained when it ended. Every rope and pole and piece of canvas had been fitted and arranged. The actors were well rehearsed. (It was nice to see actors busy with real tasks instead of the usual aimless meandering and gesticultating.) There was no struggle with the tent, no question of whether it would stand or fall.

2½+ hours of pleasant escape. No challenges from the play or the production. No doubt "The Contractor" will be as successful on Braodway as it was on the London stage.

Meanwhile the Long Wharf Theatre will go on after "The Contractor" (running through Dec. 11), and I refuse to give up my great expectations.


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Alan S. Kay, intrepid *Modern Times* photographer, is exhibiting his pictures at the Stetson Library, Dixwell Plaza, through December.

# Open Line

## Kahane's J.D.L. Tactics Criticized

*We invite contributions from our readers for the Open Line Column. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of* Modern Times.

by Sid Resnick

Rabbi Meir Kahane sought to convince his Nov. 9 Yale audience that the Jews are menaced on all sides and their only salvation lies in adopting his right-wing political program and allying themselves with the right-wing forces outside the Jewish community. Kahane, leader of the Jewish Defense League (JDL) claims Jews are menaced on the streets of American cities, Soviet Jews are persecuted and unsafe, and endangered Israel needs American military support. He presents himself as the defender of the poor Jews in the inner cities.

Kahane's pet peeves are the liberals, the radical leftists, the Black Panthers, and even the Nixon administration which he now fears is moving toward some form of cooperation with the Soviet Union and China. Instead of welcoming any lessening of the danger of war, Kahane "fears" such a detente will be made at the expense of the Jews and he advocates a tough stand by the U.S. government

against the Socialist and Third World nations. Kahane justified the JDL's harassment and terror tactics against Soviet diplomatic personnel in New York and Washington and sneered at the many leaders of important Jewish organizations who denounced his tactics.

Meir Kahane gave up his American citizenship to become a citizen of Israel but he seems to have no intention of blessing the Jewish state with his presence. Instead he spends most of his time in the United States cultivating an extreme Jewish nationalist outlook which he hopes will coincide with the objectives of the American ultra-right, the same ultra-right which is the main spawning ground of racism and anti-Semitism.

The largely Jewish student audience at Yale gave only limited approval to Kahane's views. Many were unimpressed by his alarm as far as the Jews were concerned. While some in the audience were sympathetic to his version of the situation of the Soviet Jews, the apparent majority of the audience refused to support his plea to strengthen military might. Many students showed skepticism and hostility toward Kahane.

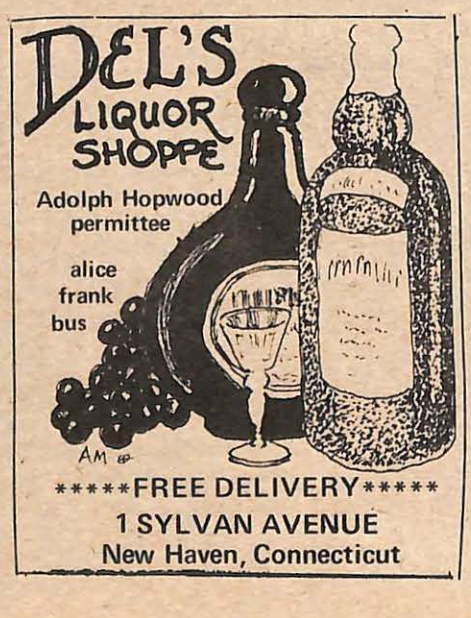
**Soviet Jewry**

Kahane was hard put to explain why he and his JDL followers never make any demonstrations against the American nazis and Jew-baiters and confine their efforts to harassment of Soviet diplomats and left-wing or peace meetings in New York. A bearded young man wearing a yarmulka angrily accused Kahane of violating the Talmudic command, "Thou shalt not murder." One student said he was for both Israel and the NLF in Vietnam and asked why Kahane wanted him to to give up one in favor of the other. Another questioned how the "Soviet Jews would have been helped" if the JDL member who fired four bullets into the bedroom window of the Soviet U.N. mission in New York had actually killed one of the sleeping children inside. To this Kahane replied, " History will judge" whether that shooting was justified, though he said that he himself had condemned it.

Rabbi Kahane's main issue is "the oppression of the Soviet Jews" and he all but suggested their condition was like that of the Jews under Hitler 30 years ago. This view has been flatly refuted by many Jewish leaders including radical Jewish spokesmen, some of whom have their own differences with the Soviet Union, and by representative Soviet Jews themselves.

**Jews and Radicals**

After the Yale meeting, heated discussions continued outside. One student who disapproved of Kahane asked, "But why don't the leaders of the left speak of us as Kahane does?" This question probably referred to Kahane's appeal for Jewish pride and that "Jewish is beautiful". Another student who also had disagreed with Kahane asked, "Where were all the Jewish radical kids tonight?" He thought that Jewish radicals were making a mistake by shying away from the problems of the Jewish community in order to prove they are "cosmopolitan" or "international." He then asked, "Who will fight the racists and the reactionaries in the Jewish community if not the Jewish radicals? Who better than the Jewish radicals can challenge Kahane's claim of being a 'defender' of the Jewish people? By staying away from the Jewish community don't the radicals give Kahane a clear field for his own brand of right-wing politics?"



# Housing Stressed in Model Cities Hill Renewal

by Liz Henderson
*Modern Times Staff*

After a year of work, the first draft of a renewal plan for the Hill neighborhood is finally ready. The working committee which developed the plan presented it recently at four meetings open to all residents of the Hill. The emphasis in the plan is on housing, schools and parks.

The renewal project in the Hill actually dates back to 1964 when the New Haven Redevelopment Agency made its first application to the Federal Government for planning money. As of January, 1971, the Redevelopment Agency had spent $2.7 million for surveys and planning and over $9 million to purchase land.

For years now the Hill has been dotted with empty lots. Hill Central and lower Washington Avenue look like abandoned no-man's lands where the Agency has bought land and cleared it. Until the plan is completed and funded most of this land will remain empty.

**New Homes, Schools, Parks**

**The Hill Draft Plan calls for between 1800 and 2000 new units of housing. (See light dotted areas on map.) These new units would be distributed among several sites, the largest at lower Washington Avenue, Adeline St. and City Point. Some of the worst housing in the Hill, around Redfield, White and Arch Streets would be torn down and replaced by new houses. 96 other units of deteriorated housing would be rehabilitated.**

Of the eight elementary schools in the Hill, five were built before 1910. The plan provides for the replacement of all of these schools, in addition to the new Hill Central K-4 (kindergarten through 4th grade) now nearing completion. (See K-4s on map.) Hill Central will also include a 5th-8th grade school and a day care center. The open space around the three old schools which remain would be increased.

At present the Hill contains around 18 acres of parks, playgrounds and playfields. The draft plan would add 23 more acres of park space. The abandoned railroad track which cuts across the Hill is proposed as a park and pedestrian walkway. There would be large parks in Hill Central and along the waterfront at City Point. (See tree-like patches on map.)

The Draft Plan suggests the Boulevard as a site for South Central Community College. Some new commercial development on Legion Ave. and Congress Ave. is also called for. (See dark patches on map.)

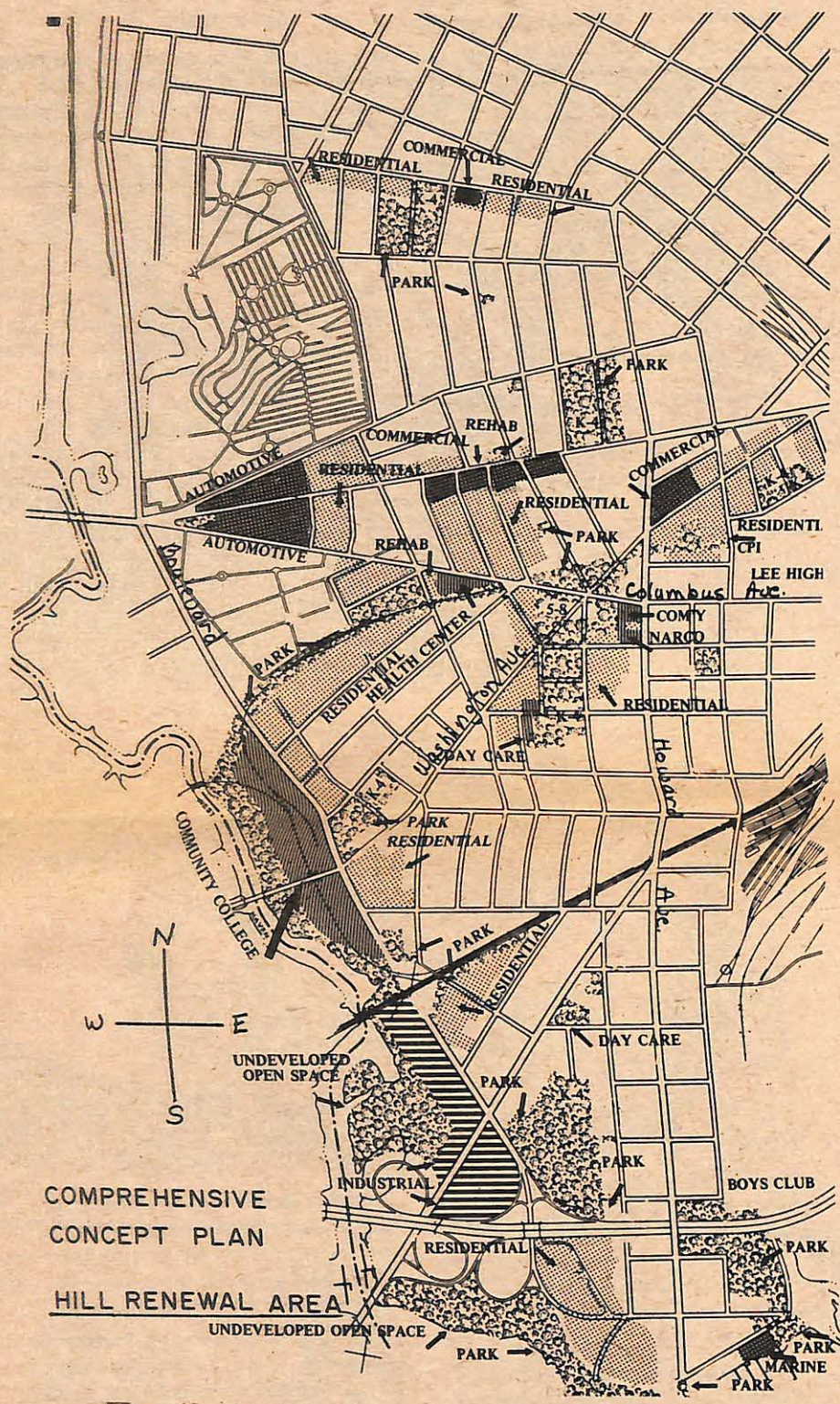
**The working committee which drew up the plan has tried very hard to avoid tearing down any more housing. They have also tried to work out better traffic patterns to keep cars as much as possible out of the most densely populated residential areas. The committee was made up of representatives of the Hill Neighborhood Corporation (HNC), the Redevelopment Agency, and several other city agencies.**

**Long, Slow Process**

The Draft Plan still has a long way to go. Changes can be made at each step of the way both by Hill residents and city officials. After HNC approval the plan will go to the Redevelopment Agency where all the details of properties to be cleared and structures to be built will be filled in. The Agency must hold a public hearing and then pass the plan to the City Plan Commission and the Housing Authority. Then the Plan goes to the Board of Aldermen who must hold another public hearing. This whole process will take six months at the very least.

Only after clearing all these hurdles on the local level will the Plan go to HUD for funding. Money for Hill renewal will probably come from the Neighborhood Development Program. Under this program renewal projects are funded for only one year at a time. This means that although the Hill Plan will take many years to complete, HUD will not guarantee money for the entire project. Each year, new applications for funds will have to be made.

At the earliest, the Hill still has another year to go before its long awaited renewal will begin.




# Dwight Center Opens

by Andy Irving
*Modern Times Staff*

More than a hundred neighborhood people and community leaders were on hand as Dwight Neighborhood Corporation(DNC) formally opened their new community services center on December 8. The old Edgewood Congregational Church at 150 Dwight Street ( at the corner of Chapel) now houses a cooperative venture unique in community organization.

Traditional agencies and emerging community-based organization rarely blend their talents, interests, and resources so successfully. But in the Dwight neighborhood, the First Church of Christ, the YWCA and YMCA, the Legion Center, and the Neighborhood Corporation are joining forces to operate the new community facility.

The building, offered by the church, will house youth programs administered jointly by the Y and DNC. The Legion Center, losing its old home on Legion Avenue, has moved its activities(mostly directed toward teenagers) to the roomy new center. And the Neighborhood Corporation will direct its activities from its new offices on the building's second floor.

DNC Executive Director Herbie Johnston expressed the hope that other neighborhoods would try to develop the same kind of comprehensive facility out of the resources available in the neighborhood. An independent, community-based service center can serve the neighborhood better than one tied completely to the downtown bureaucracy.

The corporation hopes that people will visit their new home to see the programs firsthand and join in the effort to provide more and better services for the Dwight area.

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